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Response under 37 C.F.R. 1.116
 Expedited Procedure Requested
 Examining Group. 3733
 Attorney Docket No. P24196

Confirmation No. **3567**

Group Art Unit: 3733

In re application of: Nobumasa SUZUKI et al.

Application No. : 10/659,302

Filed : September 11, 2003

Examiner: R. Shaffer

For : ROD FIXING APPARATUS FOR VERTEBRA CONNECTING MEMBER

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Commissioner for Patents
 U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
 Customer Service Window, Mail Stop AF
 Randolph Building
 401 Dulany Street
 Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is an **Amendment under 37 C.F.R. 1.116** in the above-captioned application.

_____ Small Entity Status of this application under 37 C.F.R. 1.9 and 1.27 has been established by a previously filed statement.

_____ A verified statement to establish small entity status under 37 C.F.R. 1.9 and 1.27 is enclosed.

_____ A Request for Extension of Time.

X No additional fee is required.

The fee has been calculated as shown below:

Claims After Amendment	No. Claims Previously Paid For	Present Extra	Small Entity		Other Than A Small Entity	
			Rate	Fee	Rate	Fee
Total Claims: 3	20	0	x25=	\$	x 50=	\$0.00
Indep. Claims: 2	3	0	x100=	\$	x200=	\$0.00
Multiple Dependent Claims Presented			+180=	\$	+360=	\$0.00
Extension Fees for _____ Month(s)				\$		\$0.00
Total:				\$	Total:	\$0.00

* If less than 20, write 20

** If less than 3, write 3

_____ Please charge my Deposit Account No. 19-0089 in the amount of \$_____.

N/A A check in the amount of \$_____ to cover the filing/extension fee is included.

X The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

X Any additional filing fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16.

X Any patent application processing fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.17, including any required extension of time fees in any concurrent or future reply requiring a petition for extension of time for its timely submission (37 C.F.R. 1.136(a)(3)).

Linda J. Hodge

Reg. #47,348

Linda J. Hodge
 Bruce H. Bernstein
 Reg. No. 29,027

P24196.A07



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Nobumasa SUZUKI et al.

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RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop AF
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir :

In response to the Final Official Action dated May 25, 2006, setting forth a three-month shortened statutory period for response to expire on August 25, 2006, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection in view of the herein contained remarks.

Remarks begin on page 2 of this paper.